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Application Serial No. 10/680,761
Attorney Docket No. 60001.0397US01/MS305281.1REMARKS

Reconsideration and continued examination of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-20 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 9 are independent. In the Final Office Action dated December 8, 2006, and Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Following this response, Claims 1-20 remain in this application. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

Substance of Interview Summary

A telephonic interview occurred between the undersigned, Murrell Blackburn and Examiner Kevin Nguyen on February 12, 2007. The interview covered the rejections to claims 1 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,595,781 ("Sutton") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,561,811 ("Bier").

The undersigned pointed out to the Examiner that Applicants' amended independent claim 1 recites (1) a collaboration display simultaneously displaying a plurality of different documents and accepting simultaneous input from a plurality of users in the plurality of different documents. The plurality of users provides the simultaneous inputs without gaining control over the plurality of different documents. In contrast, a display screen viewed by those attending the live education presentation of Sutton does not accept input from those viewing the presentation in a plurality of documents simultaneously displayed to those attending. Further, Bier discloses input devices controlling applications. Thus, Bier teaches away from a plurality of users providing simultaneous inputs without gaining control over the plurality of different documents. The Examiner agreed that the proposed amendment would overcome the art of record. The Examiner also reviewed the proposed amendment to claim 9 and said it would likely overcome the cited references.

Specifically, the Examiner indicated that the arguments made by the undersigned have merit. This written response is thus, submitted in follow-up to the telephonic interview for consideration by the Examiner, as it is believed to have placed the application in condition for allowance.

Application Serial No. 10/680,761
Attorney Docket No. 60001.0397US01/MS305281.1

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Final Office Action dated December 8, 2006, the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 7-13, 15, and 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,595,781 ("Sutton") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,561,811 ("Bier"). Independent claims 1 and 9 have been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments overcome these rejections and add no new matter.

Claim 1

Amended Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, *inter alia*, a collaboration display, wherein the large format collaboration display simultaneously displays a plurality of different documents and accepts simultaneous input from a plurality of users in the plurality of different documents at least two of the simultaneous inputs from the plurality of users being in different documents of the plurality of documents. The plurality of users provides the simultaneous inputs without gaining control over the plurality of different documents. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at least in paragraph [0038].

In contrast, *Sutton* at least does not disclose the aforementioned recitations. *Sutton* merely discloses a method and apparatus for use in the capture, compilation, production, and delivery of integrated educational and/or training programs. (See Abstract). The large screen display 5 displays a larger view of what is displayed on the digitizing board 3. However, there is no indication in *Sutton* that the large screen display accepts simultaneous input from the plurality of users in the plurality of different documents at least two of the simultaneous inputs from the plurality of users being in different documents simultaneously displayed to the plurality of users without the plurality of users gaining control over the plurality of different documents. (See *Sutton* column 8, lines 35-42). For example, in *Sutton*, multiple frames may be displayed but only the digitizing board receives input from a single user and displays the input via a frame on the large screen display 5 that displays digitizing inputs. The input devices shown in Fig. 2 of *Sutton* control the display and are not input devices through which a plurality of users viewing the interactive collaborative display provides inputs. The display screen viewed by those attending the live education presentation of *Sutton* does not accept input from those viewing the

Application Serial No. 10/680,761
Attorney Docket No. 60001.0397US01/MS305281.1

presentation in a plurality of documents simultaneously displayed to those attending. (See Sutton, column 9, lines 17-20). Because *Sutton* does not disclose accepting simultaneous inputs from the plurality of users in the plurality of different documents simultaneously displayed to the plurality of users, *Sutton* does not teach or suggest amended claim 1.

Furthermore, *Bier* does not overcome *Sutton*'s deficiencies. *Bier* discloses two or more persons sharing the same instance of an application on a common screen. (See column 2, lines 22-25). *Bier* also discloses that input devices are used to control one or more stored applications. (See *Bier* Abstract). *Bier* does not contemplate accepting simultaneous inputs into different documents because *Bier* discloses input devices controlling applications. Thus, *Bier* teaches away from a plurality of users providing simultaneous inputs without gaining control over the plurality of different documents as recited in amended claim 1. Thus, neither *Sutton* nor *Bier* alone, or in combination, teach or suggest each and every feature of amended claim 1.

Claim 9

Amended Claim 9 is patentably distinguishable over the cited art for at least the reason that it recites, *inter alia*, displaying simultaneously to the plurality of users a plurality of different documents in the collaborative display in response to the input signals from the registered users and receiving the input signals through input devices in contact with a resistive touch screen overlay placed on the collaborative display. The plurality of users provide the input signals without gaining control over the plurality of different documents. Support for this amendment can be found in the specification at least in paragraph [0038].

As described above with respect to amended claim 1, there is no indication in *Sutton* that the display accepts simultaneous input from the plurality of users in the plurality of different documents simultaneously displayed to the plurality of users without the plurality of users gaining control over the plurality of different documents. (See *Sutton* column 8, lines 35-42). Also, *Bier* teaches away from a plurality of users providing simultaneous inputs without gaining control over the plurality of different documents as recited in amended claim 9. Thus, amended claim 9 is allowable over *Sutton* and *Bier* alone or in combination.

Application Serial No. 10/680,761
Attorney Docket No. 60001.0397US01/MS305281.1

Dependent Claims

Claims 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sutton* in view *Bier*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,5818,421 ("*Ogino*"). Claims 3, 5, 6, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sutton* in view of *Bier*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,823,481 ("*Takekawa*"). Claims 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Sutton* in view of *Bier*, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,600,778 ("*Swanson*").

Dependent Claims 2-8 and 10-20 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claims 1 and 9, and by virtue of their respective dependencies upon independent Claims 1 or 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-8 and 10-15.

MAR 08 2007

Application Serial No. 10/680,761
Attorney Docket No. 60001.0397US01/MS305281.1**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Final Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. Furthermore, the Final Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Final Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

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